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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/597,317 | 07/20/2006 | Thomas Petrus Hendricus Warmerdam | NL 040088 | 9273 |
| 24737 | 7590 | 12/18/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS | | | SCHWARTZ, CHRISTOPHER P | |
| P.O. BOX 3001 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510 | | | 3657 | |
| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE | | | |
| 12/18/2008 | PAPER | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/597,317 | WARMERDAM ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Christopher P. Schwartz | 3657 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-5,8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schubert et al. '307 in view of Kienholz '202..

Regarding claims 1-5,8-10 the reference to Schubert et al. shows an active vibration isolation system similar in concept to applicant's.

Schubert et al. '307 states in col 1 lines 24-30 that it is known in the art to place sensors on the payload to measure the absolute motion of the payload relative to inertial space, but that this arrangement may not be fully practical to implement.

However, Schubert et al. '307 states in col. 9 that control loops may use the absolute velocity of the payload mass. See lines 45-65.

Kienholz '202 shows an isolator that, according to col. 3 lines 32-38, "... allows for maintaining position control relative to an arbitrary reference, which may itself be moving in inertial space, rather than only relative to the base on which the payload is supported...". In col. 4 lines 11-15 Kienholz states "... the piston force command may be derived from transducers sensing the payload position, either relative to the supporting base, or to some other reference which may be moving relative to the base".

One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to have modified Schubert et al. to use the payload as the inertial reference mass, as suggested in both Schubert et al. or Kienholz '202, simply as a known obvious alternative method of controlling vibrations input into the payload.

Claims 6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schubert in view of Kienholz as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of Hornung et al..

Regarding claims 6 and 7 Hornung et al. teaches a shock absorbing system and in col. 2 lines 56-61 that the elastic spring devices 2-5 "have a very low Eigen frequency or resonant frequency and a small damping coefficient with respect to oscillations".

To have employed low "eigen frequency" dampers 30,32 in Schubert would have been obvious simply dependent upon the vibrational environment the system may be adapted to be utilized in.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See Schubert '873 col. 3.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher P. Schwartz whose telephone number is 571-272-7123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rob Siconolfi can be reached on 571-272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher P. Schwartz/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3657

12/16/08

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